AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Process for the chromatographic separation of components (19, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29) of a multiple-component fluid mixture (2a) by means of the a Simulated Moving Bed Process, in which the multiple-component fluid mixture (2a) and at least one solvent (3a) are are passed into a plurality of at least one chamber (10a-10e; 11a-11e; 12a-12e; 13a-13e) or chamber sections containing a solid, at a first and second input (9b, 9d; 9f, 9h), and

an extract flow (6a), which contains at least one first component (19, 26, 29) separated from the multiple-component fluid mixture (2a), as well as a raffinate flow (7a), which contains at least one second component (20, 25, 28) separated from the multiple-component fluid mixture (2a) are drawn off from the chambers (10a-10e; 11a-1-1c; 12a-12e; 13a-13e) or chamber sections at a first and second outlet (9 a, 9e; 9e, 9g), whereby

the chambers (10a – 10c; 11a – 11c; 12a – 12c; 13a – 13c) or chamber sections forming a closed circuit (8a, 8b; 18) are connected together in series, and connection ports of the first and second inlets and outlets (9a – 9d; 9e – 9h) arranged between two chambers (10a, 13c; 10c, 11a; 11c, 12a; 12c, 13a) or chamber sections of the circuit (8a, 8b; 18) are repositioned between two other chambers (10a, 10h; 11a, 11b; 12a, 12b; 13a, 13b) or chamber sections of the circuit at the end of a cyclical time unit, wherein characterised in that the concentration of the input multiple-

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component fluid mixture (2a) and/or a composition of the solvent (3a) is/are changed within the

cycle unit.

2. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised

in that a pressure of the input multiple-component fluid mixture (2a) and/or of the solvent (3a) is

changed, in steps and/or continuously, within a cycle unit.

3. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised

in that a temperature of the input multiple-component fluid mixture (2a) and/or of the solvent

(3a) is changed, in steps and/or continuously, within a cycle unit.

4. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised

in that the concentration of the multiple-component fluid mixture and/or the composition of the

solvent is changed, in steps and/or continuously.

5. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised

in that at least one solid is used which is suitable for bringing about differing migration rates of

the individual components of the multiple-component fluid mixture in the individual chambers or

chamber sections.

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- 6. (Currently amended) <u>The process Process</u> according to claim 1, <u>wherein eharacterised</u> in that the solid is an adsorbent material.
- 7. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that a mixture of a plurality of fluids is used as solvent (3a).
- 8. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein eharacterised in that a gas or a mixture of a plurality of gases which is/are in a supercritical or subcritical state is used as solvent (3a) and/or multiple-component fluid.
- 9. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that the solvent (3a) contains components which are to be separated.
- 10. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 9, wherein eharacterised in that the solvent containing the components which are to be separated and the solvent without the components which are to be separated display different compositions and/or capacities in terms of influencing the bonding behaviour of the components which are to be separated in relation to the solid.

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- 11. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that a chemical reaction is earded carried out in the chambers (10a 10c; 11a 11c; 12a 12c; 13a 13c) or chamber sections in order to produce and separate the components.
- 12. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein eharacterised in that the connection ports of the first and second inlets and outlets (9a 9d; 9e 9h) are repositioned at different times.
- 13. (Currently amended) The process Process according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that at least one volume flow of the multiple-component fluid mixture (2a), of the solvent (3a), of the extract flow (6a), of the raffinate flow (7a) and internal recirculation flows is changed, in steps and/or continuously, within a cycle unit.
 - 14. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for performing the process according to claim 1.